

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of December 14, 2007 issued with respect to the present RCE application, the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the print media guide is mounted to the casing immediately adjacent the printhead module, that the slanted print media contact surface of the print media guide is arranged to contact the first surface of the print media immediately adjacent the printhead module and guide the print media across the nozzles of the printhead module for printing onto the first surface. Support for this amendment can be found at page 12, lines 23-27 and in Fig. 3 of the present application; and dependent claims 2-4 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections and Response to Arguments

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-4 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook '908 in view of Silverbrook '834, for at least the following reasons.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action the Examiner contends that the Applicant argued in the previous Reply that Silverbrook '908 does not have a nozzle guard. However, this was not the argument presented by the Applicant.

Rather, the Applicant respectfully submits that in any combination of Silverbrook '908 and Silverbrook '834, one of ordinary skill in the art would only be motivated to provide both the nozzle shield of Silverbrook '908 and the platen of Silverbrook '834 in order to meet the recited nozzle guard and media guide of the claimed invention.

However, in such a combination of Silverbrook '908 and Silverbrook '834 the platen would be disposed to contact a non-printing surface of the print media (i.e., the surface of the print media opposite the side onto which the printhead prints), based on the disclosure of Silverbrook '834. Accordingly, the combined arrangement of Silverbrook '908 and Silverbrook '834 is distinguished from the arrangement of the claimed invention, because in the claimed invention the media guide is disposed so as to contact the printing surface of the print media.

In order to clarify this distinction, amended independent claim 1 clearly recites that the print media guide contacts the first surface of the print media immediately adjacent the printhead module to guide the print media across the nozzles of the printhead module for printing onto the first surface.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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